

## CHAPTER 16

### RING BUOY

16-1. **GENERAL.** The standard ring buoy (see Figure 16-1, page 16-2), is a 30-inch diameter, inherently buoyant, plastic buoy. Ring buoys are intended to be used when a person falls overboard. A ring buoy with either a floating distress marker and/or self-activating smoke signal attached shall be readily available on each side of the watercraft. Other life ring buoys must have a 90-foot, orange, buoyant, polypropylene retrieving line attached. All ring buoys will have reflective tape/material attached.

16-2. **NUMBER REQUIRED.** The minimum number of 30-inch ring buoys and the minimum number of which shall have distress markers, smoke signals, or retrieving lines, shall be in accordance with Table 16-1, page 16-3.

#### NOTE

Marine smoke/flame location marker will be attached to the ring buoy with distress marker light located on the port and starboard bridge wing.

16-3. **INSPECTION.** Inspect ring buoys every 6 months by completing the following steps:

- Inspect ring buoy for general condition of inherently buoyant material, such as holes, cracks, rips, and so forth.
- Inspect condition of lifeline, replace as required.
- Inspect retrieving line for condition and security. The retrieving line shall be securely attached to the ring buoy lifeline with an eye splice. Retrieving lines shall be stowed in a loose coil and lashed in place on the ring buoy with an easily breakable cotton thread.
- Inspect the reflective tape/material for tears and missing pieces.
- Ensure that the ring buoy is orange in color (international) and stenciled with the vessel's name or number and the legend "US ARMY".
- If a ring buoy is found unserviceable, remove it from the watercraft immediately.

16-4. **MODIFICATIONS.** A ring buoy needs to be modified before use. Make the following modifications to a ring buoy when appropriate.

- To aid in locating a ring buoy at night, reflective tape/material shall be installed on each ring buoy as shown in Figure 16-2, page 16-4.
- Attach 90 feet of retrieving line, using an eye splice, to each ring buoy without a distress marker or smoke signal.

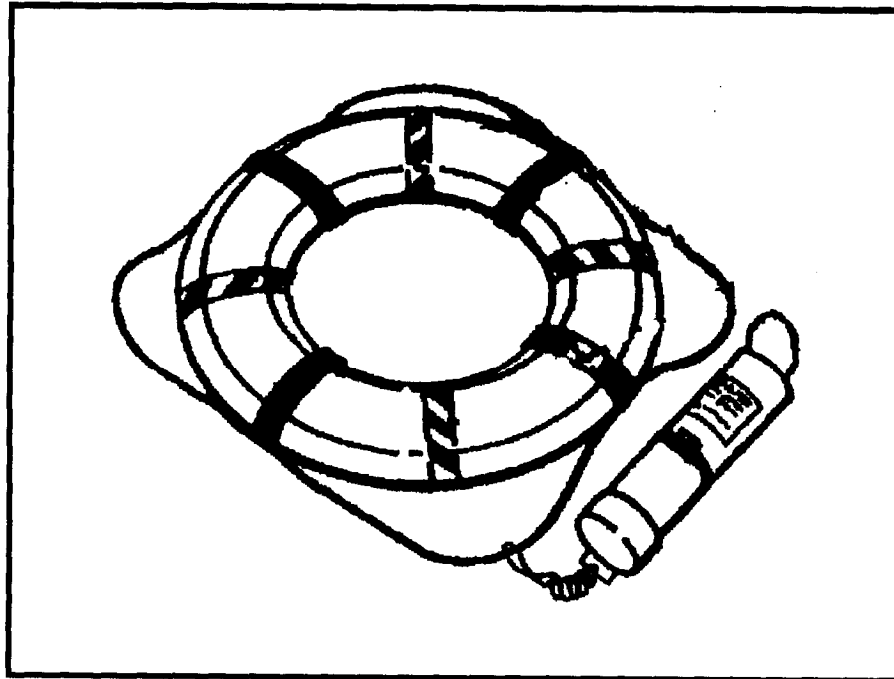
**NOTE**

Marine smoke/flame location marker will be attached to the ring buoy with distress marker light located on the port and starboard bridge wing.

- Attach a floating distress marker to each ring buoy positioned for man overboard emergency. It is attached by the halyard snap and 2 feet of 1/4-inch-diameter, yellow, polyethylene line.
- Attach a smoke signal to each ring buoy located on the port and starboard bridge wing.

16-5. **PROCUREMENT.** Order the following items by their appropriate NSN.

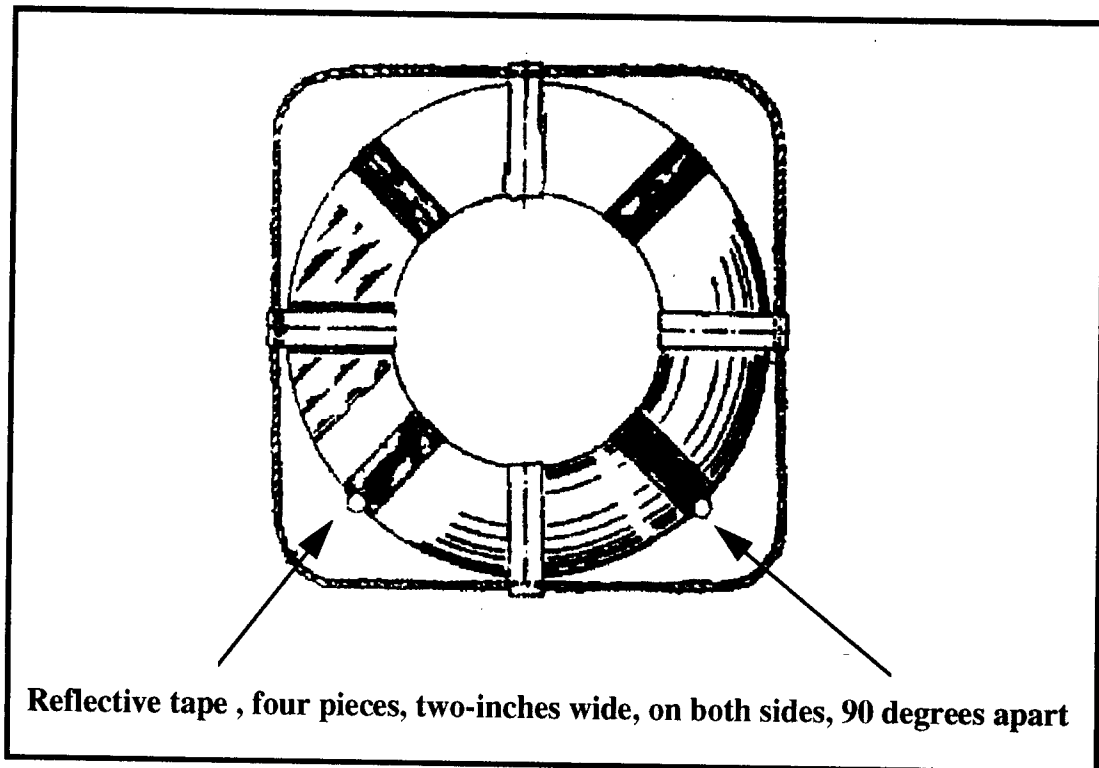
- Ring Buoy, 30 inches (NSN 4220-00-275-3157).
- Reflective Tape, Adhesive backed, 3 inches X 50 yards, silver (NSN 9390-01-078-8660).
- Ring Buoy retrieving line, orange, polypropylene, 1-inch circular, 1700# b/s, 200 yards long (NSN 4020-00-530-0698).
- Distress Marker Lanyard, yellow, polyethylene, 1/4-inch diameter, 3 strand, 1000# b/s, 200 yards long (NSN 4020-00-710-2074).
- Marker, Location Marine, Mk 58, Mod 1 (NSN 1370-01-074-0591) (DODIC 1370-L580).
- Snap, Halyard (NSN 5340-00-275-4584).



*Figure 16-1. Ring buoy (standard)*

Table 16-1. Authorized required ring buoys and attachments

Type of Watercraft	Minimum number of buoys required	Minimum number of buoys required with 90 foot line attached	Minimum number of buoys required with distress marker light attached	Minimum number of buoys required with marine smoke/flame location marker
LSV	8	2	6	2
LCU 2000	8	2	6	2
LCU 1600	6	1	5	0
LT (800 series)	6	1	5	2
LT (100 foot)	5	1	4	2
ST (65 foot)	5	1	4	0
LCM-8	3	1	2	0
LARC XV	2	1	1	0
CHI	3	1	2	0
FMS	6	2	4	0
BD	4	2	2	0
BG	2	1	1	0
Causeway Ferry	2	1	1	0



*Figure 16-2. Ring buoy with reflective tape/material*